

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-62. (Canceled)

63. (Currently Amended) A polynucleic acid which is chosen from the group consisting of:

- (i) the nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:51,
- (ii) a nucleotide sequence comprising at least 60 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:51 ~~part of said polynucleic acid of (i) which is unique to HCV type 10, or, to the subtype 10a,~~ and
- (iii) the complement of the polynucleic acid of (i) or (ii).

64. (Withdrawn) A polynucleic acid which is selected from:

- (i) a polynucleic acid encoding an HCV polyprotein comprising in its amino acid sequence at least one of the following amino acid residues; ~~L186, G217, C252, A254, G290, W293, H295, ;G217 and C252,~~ with said notation being composed of a letter representing the amino acid residue by its one-letter code, and a number representing the amino acid numbering of the HCV polyprotein as shown in Table 1,
- ~~(ii) a part of said polynucleic acid of (i) which is unique to HCV type 10, or, to the subtype 10a,~~
- (iii) or the complement of the polynucleic acid of (i) ~~or (ii).~~

65. (Withdrawn) A polynucleic acid which is selected from:

(i) a polynucleic acid encoding an HCV polyprotein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 52, 138, 155, 174, and 190 ~~and 207~~,

~~(ii) a part of said polynucleic acid of (i) which is unique to HCV type 10, or, to the subtype 10a,~~

(iii) or the complement of the polynucleic acid of (i) ~~or (ii)~~.

66. (Withdrawn) A recombinant polypeptide encoded by a polynucleic acid according to any of claims 63 to 65.

67. (Previously Presented) A method for production of a recombinant polypeptide, comprising:

-transformation of an appropriate cellular host with a recombinant vector, in which a polynucleic acid according to any of claims 63 to 65 has been inserted under the control of the appropriate regulatory elements, the polynucleic acid thus being an insert,

-culturing said transformed cellular host under conditions enabling the expression of said insert, and

-harvesting said polypeptide.

68. (Previously Presented) A recombinant expression vector comprising a polynucleic acid according to any of claims 63 to 65 operably linked to prokaryotic,

eukaryotic or viral transcription and translation control elements.

69. (Previously Presented) A host cell transformed with a recombinant vector according to claim 68.

70. (Withdrawn) ~~A peptide corresponding to an amino acid sequence~~ An isolated peptide encoded by ~~one of the a~~ polynucleic acids ~~according~~ acid according to any of claims ~~63 64~~ to 65, with said peptide comprising an epitope which is unique to HCV type 10, or, to the subtype 10a.